



The Star & Garter

114 Leicester Road, Wigston Magna, Leicestershire, LE18 1DS

0116 2882450 info@starandgarterwigston.co.uk

Timeline

| Date | Description |
|--------|--|
| 1879 | Pub Built |
| 1881 | Frederick Langley was the licensee and later William Ward |
| 1887-8 | <i>John Thomas Boulter, Brewery Agent</i> |
| 1888 | <i>Landlord Ralph Preston</i> |
| 1890 | <i>Everards purchased the pub in 1890 and started trading that year</i> |
| 1891-2 | Joseph E Tompkins Proprietor |
| 1916 | Kelly's Directory of the Counties of Leicestershire and Rutland 1916 Listed under Wigston Magna page 648 <i>Tomkins, Joseph E. Star & Garter P.H. Leicester Road</i> |
| | |
| | |

Owned by:-

Everards Brewery Ltd, Castle Acres, Narborough, Leicestershire, LE19 1BY

0116 201 4100 mail@everards.co.uk

Mike Forryan research 2015

Architectural:-

Brick built with even sized slated roof. There is decorative brickwork to all eaves including side elevations. There are stone mullioned windows to front elevation with curved lintels to windows on side elevation. There is a 'star shape' carving to the top point of the front gable where the date also appears. There is accommodation to the first floor and former stabling and skittle alley to the rear.

Historical:-



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This pub was a significant local amenity when the large 'Two Steeples' hosiery factory was located on the adjacent plot. There was considerable terraced housing in the vicinity some of which remains to the present day.

Pre - Dated

PORTGATE.

At the rear of the Star and Garter Inn on Leicester Road was Portgate Close. It is clearly shown on the map prepared for the footpath closure which ran parallel to Leicester Road. (See Page 20)

Hoskins shows it as the old Leicester Road and says Potregate in 1271, Pottergate 1348, Porteway 1417. The port way, leading port or town clearly shows as Leicester Road out of Wigston.

1879

Head stone for building show date 1879 and name

1881

Extract from Victorian Wigston by Bernard Elliott - The Publicans of Wigston in 1881

In 1846, there were eleven inns and taverns in Wigston. During the course of the 19th century one inn, the Swan, closed, while two new inns, the Star and Garter and the Royal Oak opened so that in the 1881 census there were twelve inns in the village.

Two inns were to be found on Leicester Road: the Bell Inn, kept by Thomas Potter and the Star and Garter, managed by Fred Langley.

1881 Frederick Loyley was the licensee

1890 Information Supplied by Everards Brewery Company

Everards purchased the pub in 1890 and started trading that year.

Unfortunately their archives were lost over time and no further information is available from them.

1891

Extract from "Wigston in 1891" by Bernard Elliott

Another inn on the Leicester Road was the Star and Garter, which in 1881 was run by Fred Langley, but in 1891 it had a new licensee, Richard Pick, 30, from Leicester.



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1892

Extract from The Leicester Chronicle and Leicestershire Mercury 1892

Saturday 23rd January 1892

WIGSTON UNITED BRASS BAND

On Monday evening the members of this band, with their wives and a few friends, held their annual dinner at the Star and Garter Inn. The band under the leadership of Mr A. Boulter, played selections during the evening and songs were given by Messrs Boulter, Ladkin, Vann and Mrs Boulter.

1895

Landlords leaving one Public House have appeared to stay in the locality, for example:- in 1895 Ben Hackett is at the Star and Garter before going to the Crown and in 1936 W. E. Hackett is at the Horse and Trumpet after the Crown. Also the tenancy appeared to pass from one generation of a family to another to William Ernest Brackett (His son).

1916

Kelly's Directory of the Counties of Leicestershire and Rutland 1916

Listed under Wigston Magna page 648

Tomkins, Joseph E. Star & Garter P.H. Leicester Road

2014

Extract from the Star & Garter web site:-

Christina & Mark (Mother & Son) welcome you all to The Star & Garter.

Both are no stranger to pubs having grown up within the industry. Christina has over 20 years of experience within the industry most of which time was spent on the Channel Island of Guernsey. Modestly Christina has held many prestigious positions within the industry acting as Vice President and Chairperson for The Guernsey Licensed Victualers Association.

Mark on the other hand has a much shorter pub background, although having grown up in the industry he is a relative newcomer, albeit a passionate and forward thinking one. Mark's background is predominantly financed based which means he will often be found in the office. A once keen footballer, now turned cask ale enthusiast, be sure to sample the variety of ales on the bar, he promises you will not be disappointed.

Christina & Mark are looking to grow The Star & Garter into the perfect traditional pub, serving excellent quality products in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. With a varied and exciting entertainment schedule, which they are working on now. Watch out for the beer festivals, both are no stranger to holding big events and promise to put on a spectacle for all.

Christina, Mark and all of the team look forward to welcoming you to the Star & Garter soon..

Christina & Mark



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end

From "Wigston Remembering the Past" fb page

29-616 Star & Garter Inn Leicester Road Wigston Magna

The story goes that there was an undertaker who resided behind the Star & Garter. There was a small outbuilding where the horse drawn hearse was kept. Pre burial the bodies were supposedly kept in the cellar of the Star & Garter where there are still mortuary slabs. I have tried to get access to the cellar to see if the slabs are still there. Unfortunately the licence holder would not reply to my contacts.

Does anyone know of this story and if it is true?





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Phil Simpkin There are several recorded inquests held at the Star and Garter through the mid to late 1800s, where the Coroner would expect the jury to examine the deceased, so it is very likely that a mortuary house existed as part of the premises. Many Inns used cold stores for such purpose. Interesting.

end

Name and Contact Detail of Person Supplying The Information

Text of information found

end

Star & Garter Hotel

Roy_McKeown@silverstream-online.co.uk

1878 July William Bunn , a cattle dealer [Wright's Directory 1878], [Leicester Journal *21 December 1877 p 6*]

sold a substantial portion of his household effects from Windham House, Granville Road, Wigston Fields

[Leicester Journal *05 July 1878 p 1*] as he was "removing from Wigston Fields".

1878-9 Star & Garter built by William Bunn "under the superintendence of a firm of architects in Leicester"

[Leicester Chronicle *11 October 1879 p 1*]

1879 October Bunn applied for a spirit licence but on advice of his solicitor, Haxby, withdrew the application.

[Leicester Journal *03 October 1879 p 2*]

1879 October S&G offered for sale as a "newly erected beerhouse" [Leicester Chronicle *11 October 1879 p 1*] by owner and occupier William Bunn [Leicester Chronicle *11 October 1879 p 1*]. The "out offices" described as including a slaughterhouse.



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1880 October Frederick Loyley applied for a spirit licence at S&G. Declined.
[Leicester Journal *01 October 1880 p 7*]

1881 June S&G licence transferred to William Ward [Leicester Chronicle *25 June 1881 p 6*]

1883 Wm Henry Bunn m. Selina Mary Sibson (b.1860 daughter of the licensee of the Royal Oak) at Pancras.

1887 November John Thomas Boulter “who keeps the Star and Garter” in court to testify against a vexatious drunken customer [Leicester Chronicle *19 November 1887 p 10*]

1889 Richard Pick [Wright’s Directory]

1891 Ben Hackett applies to upgrade Star & Garter to full licence from beer on. Refused.

1895 Ben Hackett [Kelly’s Directory]

1897 October Huram Wright applies for spirit licence at S&G. Refused.
[Leicester Chronicle *02 October 1897 p 3*]

1899 Huram Wright cow keeper, cab proprietor and landlord at S&G. [Kelly’s Directory], [Wright’s Directory]

1908 Joseph E. Tomkins [Kelly’s Directory]

1916 Joseph E. Tomkins [Kelly’s Directory]

Star & Garter Hotel: the mortuary slabs

Roy_McKeown@silverstream-online.co.uk

Since we know next to nothing about these slabs the possibilities are endless. We know from sale details that there was a slaughterhouse attached to the premises so one possibility is that these were actually butchers’ blocks where carcasses were processed into manageable cuts.

The inquest thread is interesting and more evidence on this would be useful – i.e. storing the body, running the inquest etc. Inquests seem to have been held occasionally at most pubs at some time so it is hard to see why S&G would need special slabs. The idea that there were inquest juries who were required to view the corpse is also suspect. Evidence?

Finally, some circumstantial evidence. Around 1896-97 Huram Wright became landlord at the S&G. In 1892 he is listed as “cab and wagonette proprietor, and funeral undertaker Bull's Head street” [Kelly’s Directory 1892]

so did the slabs come with him when he moved to Long Street? And what, in any case, would they have been required for?

Post mortem examinations (a.k.a. autopsies) seem unlikely. Embalming?



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Without further evidence we can only speculate – it could just as easily be asserted that they were used by resurrection men when doing their dissections!



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PHOTOGRAPHS



23-657 Star & Garter
Leicester Road Wigston Magna



8-140 Leicester Road Wigston Magna



14-281 The Star & Garter Leicester
Road Wigston Magna May 2009



19-149 Leicester Road Wigston
Magna Mar 2012

Other Pictures in the GWHS Archive :-

- 19-150
- 19-151
- 19-152
- 22-113
- 22-502
- 23-010



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Research Notes

1. According to James Freckingham the original undertaker was Garretts who were taken over by Mildreds.
2. Jean Peabody 109 Leicester Road LE18 1NS telephone conversation 5th March 2015
 - a. Jean's mother and father ran the pub for a period. Jean lived there as a girl but did not like it.
 - b. Landlords:-
 - i. Mr & Mrs Underwood – The husband was a Carter while his wife was Landlady and ran the pub.
 - ii. Reginald Morris Dalby – longest serving manager
 - c. There was originally a cottage attached to the left hand side of the pub. This was demolished and a new lounge built.
 - d. The original entrance for the pub was on an angle across one corner of the building
 - e. The access to the cellar was on the right of the pub and was a trap door in the floor where barrels were rolled down.
 - f. Jean remembers the cellar being spotless and wet sacks being placed over the barrels to keep them cool.
 - g. Where the skittle alley is now there was a kitchen which served food to the local factory workers. Large amounts of cutlery were found in the attic.
3. Extract from "The Wigstons" by Duncan Lucas and Tricia Berry
 - a. The Star & Garter Leicester Road in a modern photograph circa 1990. The building helpfully displays a date stone showing it was constructed in 1879. In 1881 Frederick Loyley was the licensee. The pub has recently featured in an English Heritage book 'Licensed to Sell' because it had retained an original self-contained room with hatch for outdoor sales. It is also looking very smart after a recent refurbishment.
 - b. This was the note under a picture of the Pub ref 26-460